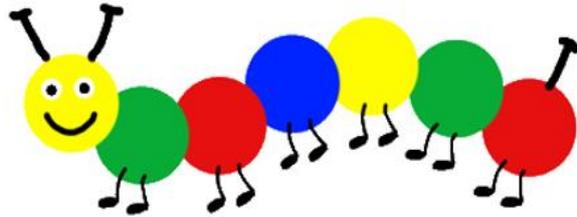


# Parent Council



## Parent Council Meeting Minutes – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Present: Jennifer Allison (HT) Caroline Findlay (DHT) Sarah Stark (DHT) Lynne Lawrie, Lynne Brown, Linsey Dagger, Claire McAdam, Jen Downie, Elaine Reid and Melissa Allum.

Apologies: Rachel Baker, Hannah Wiseman and Christine Hoy

### 1. Last meeting updates

- Lynne L confirmed that any relevant updates from Midlothian Chair meetings would be passed on to the Parent Council. No updates this evening as there has been no Chair meeting since the last PC meeting.
- Crossing at Sherwood – Lynne L has had communication with Gillian Bathgate (travel officer) The crossing will be looked at again by the new engineer, however current restrictions have delayed that. Lynne L will contact Gillian again for an update. Lynne B suggested that now all the children have returned to school it would be useful to create a survey for parents to gauge their views on the crossing to pass on the relevant person.
- Year Group Reps – Confirmed and information flyer added to the app to let parents know who their rep is.
- Communication – School gave plenty notice of dress down for Comic Relief, this was appreciated by parents.

### 2. Covid update/ Whole school return

Jennifer Allison expressed how happy all the teachers were to have all the children back. There is a real sense of how happy and settled the children are to be back. Lots of smiling and happiness to be with their friends and back in class. She confirmed the school have a full cohort of Learning Assistants to support the children's wellbeing and help with any gaps in learning. They feel confident that any nerves the children may have had over their return to school have been eased.

### 3. Playground Improvements.

Basketball nets are now up in the dining area playground. A welcomed sight after the delays due to covid. Playground improvements continues to be at the top of Parent council to do list. Possible funding and grants were discussed to help support the improvement. These will continue to be investigated. Lynne asked anyone who may be interested in helping with this to please contact us. Photos of possible ideas were shared via power point. Mostly based around a natural theme. Using felled trees, logs, and other natural materials to create areas for climbing, balance, shelter building, exploration, and discovery. As well as covered seated areas and amphitheatre style seating. Also, old tyres for climbing areas amongst other uses. Claire suggested children's murals could be used to brighten up the perimeter fences. A flyer will be created to ask the whole school community for ideas and help to make these ideas come to life.

For anyone interested, the following websites have some great videos and information on what we hope to achieve in our playground.

[www.Ltl.org.uk](http://www.Ltl.org.uk)

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/playtime-revolution-a-resource-from-grounds-for-learning>

Aerial photographs were kindly taken by Gerald Brown from Airpunk Ltd. These photos will be used in the planning, both for the children in class to share their ideas and with the school community via Parent Council Facebook page.

Access to containers in the playground will be assessed to allow children to use the resources inside them more often throughout the day. It was suggested some of the P7 children could help Learning Assistants with these items at the start and end of the day. Red boxes with other outdoor toys, games etc will be used for each year group. These will be available to them at break and lunch time. Lots of resources have been purchased over the last couple of years and school have recently ordered some items to add to these.

The school garden area will be a project for this year's P7, Mrs Brandwood's mum has kindly offered to help with the area. Any other green fingered friends of the school are also welcomed to get in touch. Covid guidance will be followed.

Sarah Stark mentioned a fantastic idea from another school called The Big Dig. A great idea where the whole school community could come together to tidy up areas of the playground and garden. When restrictions ease this would be a great idea for our school.

Linsey raised the subject of flooding in the playground outside classroom doors when there is heavy rain. Jennifer will investigate this to see if anything can be done.

#### 4. Healthy snack Initiative

This item was raised due to a lot of unhealthy snacks being brought in by the children for break time. Jennifer Allison confirmed that Bonnyrigg is a health promoting school and healthy snacks are encouraged. It was discussed that it might be hard for parents to choose healthy options if children are asking for sweet treats, especially if some of their friends have them each day. Jennifer will discuss with staff positive ways to encourage healthy snack choices and this may be incorporated into health week, where healthy eating and general wellbeing will be the topics.

#### 5. Fundraising and Treasurer update

No new fundraising items as fundraising has temporarily been paused given current restrictions.

Treasurer's update: One outgoing this month, £140 for Defibrillator replacement pads. This is a yearly cost. Currents PC account - £6888.96

Melissa has confirmed she is still moving forward with the changing of addresses and signatory.

AOB – Nothing Added

Next meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021